

April 14, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner Speaker of the House of Representatives House of Representatives H-232, Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Minority Leader House of Representatives H-204, Capitol Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader U.S. Senate S-230, Capitol Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid Minority Leader U.S. Senate S-221, Capitol Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi and Leader Reid:

As governors of states whose economies and workforces depend on exports, we strongly urge you to support legislation that provides for the long-term reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) before its charter expires on June 30, 2015. The Ex-Im Bank is a crucial tool that both small and large businesses use to compete fairly in the world market, increase their exports, stimulate job creation, and contribute to the growth of our states' economies.

As the official export credit agency of the United States, the Ex-Im Bank assumes the credit and country risks that private sector lenders are unable or unwilling to accept, and without it, U.S. firms would lose many sales to overseas competitors. The Ex-Im Bank allows our companies and workers to compete on a level playing field against international competitors who receive extensive support from their own export credit agencies.

As the economies of our states continue to grow, the Ex-Im Bank is currently playing a vital role in promoting exports and jobs. In federal fiscal year 2014, the Ex-Im Bank supplied more than \$20 billion in financing to support approximately \$27 billion in exports. In that same fiscal year, the Ex-Im Bank supported more than 160,000 American jobs. And the overwhelming majority of the Ex-Im Bank's transactions – nearly 90 percent – assisted small businesses.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Annual Report 2014 - Highlights. Export-Import Bank of the United States, 30 Dec. 2014. Web. 6 Feb. 2015. <a href="http://www.exim.gov/about/library/reports/annualreports/2014/exim-04-hightlights.html">http://www.exim.gov/about/library/reports/annualreports/2014/exim-04-hightlights.html</a>

In a tight federal fiscal environment, we are encouraged that the Ex-Im Bank is financially self-sustaining, and operates at no cost to hard-working American taxpayers. In fact, in fiscal year 2014 alone, the Ex-Im Bank returned approximately \$675 million in deficit-reducing receipts to the U.S. Treasury.<sup>2</sup>

Last year, an overwhelming majority of the nation's governors urged Congress to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank. While we appreciate that Congress extended the Bank's charter until June 30, 2015, it is essential that both chambers act again, this time to pass a long-term, multi-year reauthorization, before that deadline. We also welcome opportunities to continue to reform and improve the Ex-Im Bank moving forward. Failure to act will place American industries at a significant disadvantage in the global marketplace and harm businesses in our states.

We strongly encourage you to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership as we work together to increase job opportunities in our states and grow our national economy.

Sincerely,

Governor Robert Bentley State of Alabama

Governor Bill Walker State of Alaska

Governor John Hickenlooper State of Colorado

Governor Jack Markell State of Delaware Governor Jay Inslee State of Washington

Governor Edmund G. Brown, State of California

Governor Dannel P. Malloy

State of Connecticut

Governor Eddie Baza Calvo Island of Guam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Aorid y be Governor David Ige State of Hawaii

Governor Steven L. Beshear Commonwealth of Kentucky

Governor Charles D. Baker Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor Steve Bullock State of Montana

Masgie Hassan

Governor Maggie Hassan

Governor Maggie Hassan State of New Hampshire

Governor Mary Fallin State of Oklahoma

Governor Tom Wolf State of Pennsylvania

Governor Gina Raimondo State of Rhode Island God Butch Dun

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter State of Idaho

Governor Paul LePage State of Maine

Governor Mark Dayton/ State of Minnesota

Governor Brian Sandoval State of Nevada

Governor Susana Martinez State of New Mexico

Governor Kate Brown

State of Oregon

Governor Alejandyo Javier García Padilla Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Governor Nikki R. Haley State of South Carolina Governor Dennis Daugaard State of South Dakota

Governor Peter Shumlin State of Vermont

Governor Terence R. McAwiffe Commonwealth of Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin State of West Virginia